

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP: BU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT BY MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES
TO TOSCO

REF: SOFIA 0249

1. TOSCO WILL BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE VICE MINISTER ANGELOV
FOR DISCUSSIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE BULGARIAN LICENSING OF
COMPANY'S OIL SHALE PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY.

2. TOSCO HAS HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOB PREVIOUSLY,
SPECIFICALLY DURING AUGUST VISIT BY VICE MINISTER
CHERVENYAKOV TO U.S. SINCE THEN, TOSCO HAS BEEN INVOLVED
INDIRECTLY WITH GOB, PROVIDING A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO
KAISER ENGINEERS AS PART OF KAISER'S AGREEMENT TO DESIGN A
PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BULGARIAN OIL SHALE AND
ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES. THE OIL SHALE PORTION REPRESENTS 30
PERCENT OF THE ENTIRE PROGRAM.

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3. KAISER HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE PROPOSED ANGELOV MEETING WITH TOSCO AND RECALLS THAT LICENSING OF TOSCO TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GOB DURING KAISER DELEGATION'S VISIT TO BULGARIA IN NOVEMBER. KAISER HAS BEEN TAKEN ABACK, HOWEVER, BY BULGARIANS' APPROACH TO TOSCO INDEPENDENTLY OF KAISER, CONCERNED THAT BULGARIANS MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO BY-PASS KAISER.

4. W. C. CONE OF KAISER ENGINEERS WILL BE IN SOPHIA²⁷ FEBRUARY FOR A WEEK--TEN DAYS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF BULGARIANS' APPROACH TO TOSCO, SO THAT WE MAY ADVISE MR. CONE PRIOR TO HIS UPCOMING VISIT. PLEASE ADVISE ALSO WHETHER TOSCO SHOULD COORDINATE ANGELOV VISIT WITH KAISER. MAW

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